

Mount Wachusett Community College



In 2011, Mount Wachusett Community College was identified as the largest greenhouse gas (GHG) reducer of any Massachusetts state college, university, or agency. In the same year, the college moved decisively toward carbon neutrality with the activation of two 1.65 MW Vestas V82 wind turbines, expected to generate enough electricity to meet 97 percent of the college's annual demand.

Mount Wachusett Community College has reduced GHG emissions by 96 percent below the LBE baseline through numerous efficiency and renewable energy initiatives. The College utilized a variety of grants and energy rebates to fund lighting upgrades and lighting controls, a new pool cover, efficient ventilation systems, and a host of HVAC upgrades. Electricity consumption has decreased even as the campus has continued to grow in size and as the number of computers in use has tripled.

The \$9 million wind project adds to the college's preexisting renewable energy capacity—biomass heating, a solar PV array, and solar thermal domestic hot water technologies. Mount Wachusett Community College has integrated its renewable technologies with learning opportunities, particularly within its Natural Resources and Energy Management Academic Programs.

DOER selected Mount Wachusett Community College for a 2011 Leading by Example Award in recognition of its renewable energy and energy efficiency accomplishments. The college has also been recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other organizations for its outstanding clean energy improvements.



Overall GHG emission reduced from over 4,000 metric tonnes of GHG to less than 200 metric tonnes of GHG at MWCC. Much of the reduction in GHG emissions is attributed to the reduction of grid electricity emissions offset by on-site renewable energy.

